



Head Teacher: Gillian Powe
Deputy Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Wednesday 22nd March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Online Safety

The focus on keeping children safe and supporting their development is an important aspect of our approach to teaching about online safety. From Reception to Year 6, children learn about appropriate online behaviours, how to spot and report concerns to a trusted adult and their role in acting responsibly when interacting with content, games and communication platforms.

As children reach Year 5 & 6 and become increasingly independent, we strongly encourage parents to maintain a clear oversight and a healthy curiosity around your child's online activity. In recent weeks, parents and carers have raised concerns about the use of WhatsApp groups (age 16+) and other platforms in relation to excluding individuals, unkind language or treatment that would not be acceptable in school. Where access is not restricted and supervised, it is easy to lack awareness about the influences that children may be exposed to. Even where online content and videos seem harmless, there are often instances where 'next play' algorithms can unintentionally lead children into content that is inappropriate, explicit or harmful.

In this important stage in your child's development, their maturity and emotional intelligence is significantly out of step with the material available online. We would encourage parents and carers to read and consider some of the information in the links below as well as having open conversations with your children about the content they are accessing, or being presented with by online algorithms. Please see below for links, as well as the [school e-safety page](#), for supportive information.

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online#what-harms-might-my-child-experience-online>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Emissah
Deputy Head

